MIKE'S THE 1!

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# The Tangi Times

WEEKEND WARRIOR EDITION

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 ONE DOLLAR


# The History of the King Cake

By RYLEY PEREZ
Tangi Times A.C.E.

Mardi Gras is synonymous with vibrant parades, elaborate costumes, and festive traditions. Among the most cherished customs is the King Cake, a sweet, colorful pastry that holds deep historical and cultural significance. This iconic treat, enjoyed throughout the Carnival season, has a fascinating history that dates back centuries and blends European, Christian, and Louisiana Creole influences.

***Origins in Europe***

The tradition of the King Cake can be traced back to the Middle Ages in Europe, particularly in France and Spain. It was originally associated with the Feast of Epiphany, celebrated on January 6, which marks the day the Three Wise Men visited the baby Jesus.

In France, this feast was honored with a "galette des rois" (cake of kings), a puff pastry filled with almond cream, while in Spain, a similar "roscón de reyes" was enjoyed. Both versions typically contained a small figurine or bean hidden inside, symbolizing the journey of the Magi.

***Arrival in Louisiana***

French settlers brought the King Cake tradition to Louisiana in the 18th century, where it became intertwined with Mardi Gras festivities. Over time, the cake evolved to reflect the vibrant and diverse culture of New Orleans.

Unlike its European counterparts, the Louisiana King Cake is typically made from a brioche-like dough, braided and shaped into a ring. It is topped with a sweet glaze and decorated with purple, green, and gold sugar – the official colors of Mardi Gras, representing justice, faith, and power, respectively.

***The Hidden Baby Tradition***

One of the most intriguing aspects of the King Cake is the small plastic baby hidden inside. This tradition began with the European practice of placing a bean, coin, or figurine in the cake.

In New Orleans, the trinket evolved into a baby, representing the baby Jesus. According to common belief, a New Orleans baker named Donald Entringer, Sr., who ran McKenzie's Pastry Shoppe in New Orleans, met a traveling salesman who had little porcelain dolls from France called Frozen Charlottes. The salesman suggested Entringer use them as the prize in king cakes. Entringer loved the idea and started baking the porcelain babies into the king cakes.

The porcelain dolls have now evolved into the famous plastic King Cake babies we all know today. Whoever finds the baby in their slice of cake is deemed "king" or "queen" for the day and is traditionally expected to provide the next King Cake or host the next Mardi Gras

Please see KING CAKE on Page 6

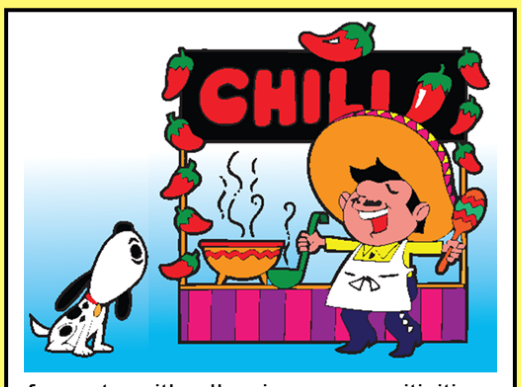
# Kitchen Craft Pet Food

By STEFANIE BROOKE
Tangi Times Community Journalist

If you've ever caught your pet eyeing your dinner with that longing gaze, you might have wondered – could I just make their food myself? In a world where fresh, homemade meals are all the rage for humans, more pet owners are trading in store-bought kibble for DIY pet food and treats. But is whipping up a gourmet meal for Fido or Whiskers worth the effort?

For some pet parents, making homemade food feels like an act of love, a way to ensure their furry friend gets only the best ingredients. No mysterious additives, no unpronounceable preservatives – just wholesome, hand-selected goodness.

Many enjoy tailoring recipes to their pet's specific dietary needs, especially




for pets with allergies or sensitivities. And let's not forget the joy of baking up a batch of peanut butter dog biscuits or crispy tuna cat treats, complete with the eager tail wags or purrs of approval.

But before you start preheating the oven and dusting off your apron, there are a few things to consider. Pets, much like their owners, require a carefully balanced diet. Without the right mix of protein, fats, vitamins, and minerals, homemade meals can sometimes do more harm than good.

Store-bought pet food is formulated to meet nutritional standards, something that takes a bit more effort when cooking from scratch. Consulting a vet or pet nutritionist is key to making sure your four-legged friend gets all the nutrients they need.

Then there's the time and cost factor. While a big bag of kibble lasts for weeks, preparing fresh meals means more time in the kitchen and more trips to the grocery store. Some ingredients, like high-quality meats and fresh produce, can add up quickly.

And just like humans, some pets are picky eaters. As a toddler turning up their nose at a lovingly made casserole, some pets may sniff at your homemade masterpiece and walk away unimpressed.

Of course, for those who enjoy a bit of kitchen creativity, making pet treats can be a fun, rewarding

See PET FOOD, Page 3

# IN MEMORIAM

**Russell Armand Mayeur III**

*Into Your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brother. In this life, You embraced him with Your tender love. Deliver him now from every evil and bid him eternal rest, we beseech You.*

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# Weekend Weather

| Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|
| 80 | 70 |
| 45 2% | 46 12% |

## From The Tangi Times Weekend Weather Team

Bob Brick

Margaret Oar

# MEME STOP STOP

My bank just started sending me daily text messages with my balance. It's helpful, but I just don't think they need to end each one with "LOL."

The Tangi Times

# movie quote Challenge

"I believe that whatever doesn't kill you simply makes you stranger."

Can you cite the movie that featured this memorable quote? Email the answer to publisher@tangitimes.com

The Tangi Times

Congratulations to Michael Holley and Robin Rodrigue for being the first to correctly identify last week's challenge from The Princess Bride!

# THE CROSSROADS

Truth? ? Satire?

You Decide.

## Recent Crazy Weather May Impact Local Cuisine

By ERNEST PANTUSSO

There's an old saying about weather in Louisiana: "If you don't like it, wait 15 minutes – it'll change." So far, the two short months of 2025 have seen record snowfall, as well as highs in the 80s. Such swings wreak havoc on lawncare, landscaping, and electric bills. Those might be mild inconveniences, but there may be some more long-term effects on locally made products, as well as FOOD!

The extreme changes in temperature have caused a widespread nauga kill that may spell big problems for the southeastern states. Craft/ trade shows are full of booths featuring naugahyde products such as belts, watch bands, and even some clothing. The high cost of shipping the hyde from distant sources could make production of these items cost prohibitive.

Nauga are known to live in the marshy areas of South Louisiana. They were brought here from Kentucky by the Krapence family, who were exiled from the Bluegrass State after they were outed for preferring grilled chicken to the traditional fried yardbird. Fortunately, Kentucky's weather has not been as extreme so far this year, so enterprising manufacturers might be able to supplement their supply from our distant neighbors to the north.

The products made from naugahyde might survive, but this local shortage could mean the end of nauga-based food products, a thought that frightens local restaurateurs.

J. W. Davis Drive Café owner Sarafina Tortelli says that a major draw to her establishment is their nauga gumbo. "People come from miles around and have been for years. Nauga helps enhance the flavor of something uniquely Louisiana. I have to say, I really like it with a tomato roux," said the third-generation owner.

Unlike the craft manufacturers, the food service industry cannot rely on nauga from Kentucky. The animals native to the land of bourbon live on a diet based mainly on bluegrass, which causes a metabolic production of an enzyme that makes the meat toxic and unsafe for human consumption.

Sumner Sloan, head of the Biological Sciences Department at Kentucky A&M University explains, "Consuming the meat of a nauga that fed primarily on Kentucky swamp bluegrass can cause a condition called Methemoglobinemia - an increase in the methemoglobin (MetHb) content of red blood cells. MetHb is formed when heme iron atoms within hemoglobin are oxidized and can no longer bind oxygen or carbon dioxide."

A symptom of Methemoglobinemia is an unmistakably bluish tint to the skin. Acute cases can result in skin similar in appearance to that of a Smurf. Lethal MetHb levels could be achieved by consuming as little as six servings of nauga in a single day.

Tortelli says that she will not serve food that will increase her customers' MetHb levels, even if it means closing her doors until the Louisiana nauga population recovers.

The fact that nauga has become a delicacy came as a surprise to many, including the man responsible for introducing the mammal to the area nearly 80 years ago, Paul Krapence. His great-grandson and namesake, Paul Krapence IV, told us, "My dad told me that his grandpappy always said that nauga meat would do things to your

(See CROSSROADS, Page 3)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!! in Tangi

**Saturday March 1**
10am
DeVonta Smith Parade
Downtown Amite

**Friday March 7**
4:30-7pm
Fish Fry - $10 – dine in/ take out
Knights of Columbus
1701 Pecan Court, Ponchatoula

**Friday March 7**
7-10pm
Live after 5 – Lauren Lee Band
Downtown Ponchatoula Revitalization Program
110 West Hickory St., Ponchatoula

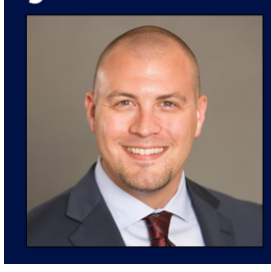
**Saturday March 8**
11am
Gumbo Cookoff
Ponchatoula High School Football Team
125 West Hickory St., Ponchatoula

**Fri. March 7-Sun. March 9**
Ponchatoula Antique Trade Days
S.E. Railroad Ave., Ponchatoula

**Fri. March 7-Sun. March 9**
Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival
307 E. Railroad Ave., Independence

**Fri. March 7-Sun. March 9**
Vintage Market Days
Florida Parishes Arena
1301 NW Central Ave., Amite

coverage for wherever you call home



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# TPSS Job Fair

**By STEFANIE BROOKE**
**Tangi Times Community Journalist**

If you've ever dreamed of shaping young minds, inspiring future leaders, or simply having summers off, mark your calendar for the 2025 Teacher Job Fair! Tangipahoa Parish School System is rolling out the welcome mat on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Hammond Westside Montessori School's Multi-Purpose Room (2600 PFC Matthew E. Wildes Street, Hammond, LA 70403). Doors open at 9:00am and close at 12:00pm, but don't be late – you must sign in by 11:30am to participate in interviews.

This isn't your average job fair. It's an opportunity to meet face-to-face with school principals who are actively seeking new team members. Whether you're a seasoned educator or fresh out of college with stars in your eyes and a teaching certificate in hand (or evidence of certification eligibility), this event is the perfect chance to find your place in the classroom.

Unlike online applications that may feel like sending your resume into the void, this event puts you directly in front of the people who make hiring decisions. Shake hands, share your passion for teaching, and make a memorable impression.

Because interviews will be conducted on-site, this means you could walk in as a hopeful candidate and walk out with a job offer! But it's not just about the interviews – mingle with fellow educators, learn about different schools, and even pick up tips from experienced teachers. You never know when a casual conversation might lead to your dream job.

Each school has its own unique vibe. Meeting principals and staff face-to-face gives you a feel for each school's environment, helping you find the best fit for your teaching style and career goals.

Why consider joining the Tangipahoa Parish School System? For starters, teaching isn't just a job – it's a calling.

But there are perks, too! Competitive pay, robust benefits, and that coveted summer break (perfect for recharging, traveling, or finally finishing that novel). Plus, there's the joy of making a difference in a student's life, one lesson at a time.

So dust off your resume, polish your teaching philosophy, and head to Hammond Westside Montessori on March 15. The next chapter of your career might just begin with a handshake and a smile.

# PET FOOD

(FROM PAGE 1)

experience without the commitment of an entirely homemade diet. Pumpkin pupcakes, sweet potato chews, or frozen yogurt bites can be a great way to treat pets to something special while still relying on store-bought food for their main meals.

For those who'd like to test their baking skills on a simple and pet-approved treat, here's an easy recipe for Peanut Butter & Banana Dog Biscuits that's sure to get some tails wagging:

Ingredients:
1 ripe banana, mashed
½ cup natural peanut butter (make sure it's xylitol-free)
1½ cups oat flour (or ground oats)
1 egg

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a bowl, mix together mashed banana, peanut butter, and egg until smooth. Gradually stir in oat flour until a dough forms. If it's too sticky, add a little more flour.

Roll out the dough to about ¼-inch thick and cut into shapes with a cookie cutter. Place on baking sheet and bake for 12-15 minutes, or until golden brown. Let cool completely before serving to your furry taste-tester.

So, is homemade pet food worth it? That depends on your pet's needs, your budget, and your enthusiasm for playing chef.

Whether you go all-in on fresh pet cuisine or just dabble in the occasional homemade snack, one thing's for sure – there's nothing quite like a happy pet licking their chops after a delicious meal, no matter where it came from.

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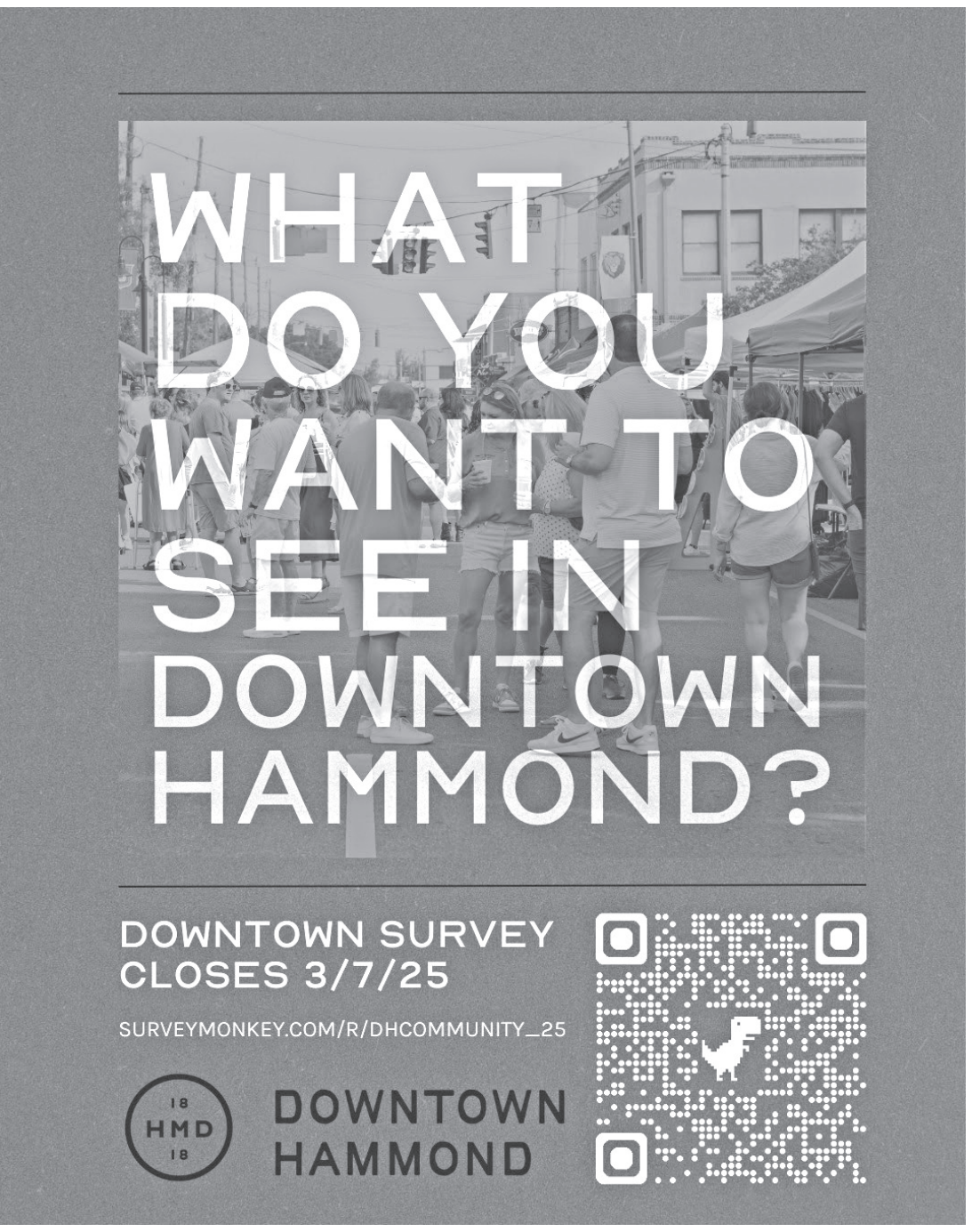


# Calling Patriotic Students

**By STEFANIE BROOKE**
**Tangi Times Community Journalist**

In 2026, the United States will be blowing out 250 candles on its birthday cake, and what better way to celebrate than by inviting the voices of the future to chime in? A contest called America's Field Trip gives students across the country a chance to make history by sharing their thoughts on what America means to them.

And the cherry on top? They could win an unforgettable adventure to some of the most iconic historic and cultural sites in the nation.

America's Field Trip is no ordinary contest. It's a golden ticket for students in grades 3 through 12 to express their creativity and patriotism through either writing or original artwork. Whether they choose to put pen to paper or paint-brush to canvas, their submissions will answer one big question: "What does America mean to you?"

The deadline for entries is Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 5:00pm ET, so there's plenty of time to dream up something spectacular. Submissions can include physical artwork (submitted via a high-resolution photo), digital drawings, or essays. A panel of current and former educators will serve as judges, keeping a keen eye out for clarity of idea (25%), student voice (50%), and presentation (25%).

And now, the prizes, because what's a contest without a little motivation? Twenty-five first-place winners from each grade level category, along with a designated chaperone, will pack their bags for a three-day, two-night adventure at a historic or cultural landmark.

Meanwhile, 25 second-place winners will each receive a cool $500 cash award. Winners will be announced in May 2025, with trips taking place in July and August 2025.

Ready to jump in? Students must develop their submissions individually and have a parent, legal guardian, or teacher submit their entry through the official application portal at America250.org/FieldTrip/Application. Teachers submitting on behalf of students must have written permission from a parent or guardian.

So, if you've ever dreamed of standing where history happened or just want to share your unique take on what America means to you, this is your chance. Get writing, get drawing, and get ready to make your mark on America's 250th birthday celebration!

# CROSSROADS

(FROM PAGE 2)

skin that Ajax won't take off. But a few years after my family settled in the area, those damn drunk Tortellis stoled a couple and cooked some up. I'll be damned if they haven't gotten rich from that recipe. Those people will put anything in gumbo. Even 'maters."

Up until a couple of weeks ago, importing nauga from New Zealand, where there is no bluegrass, would have been an option, but recent reciprocal tariffs enacted by the Trump Administration make this unrealistic. And to some, the taste of the meat from down under just isn't the same. "I tried it once, I found it really gamey, and it just doesn't have any flavor, said Tortelli. No amount of tomato roux can make that any good."

Andy Schroder, owner of the Tickfaw Brasserie says that snipe gumbo has a similar taste. However, he lamented, "Since snipe season is over, the chances of finding any fresh meat are rare, and I ain't stupid enough to hunt them out of season."

Possibly coincidentally, Schroder's statement came after hearing comments by Livingston County Fish & Game officer Ed LeBeque. "If anyone comes into my jurisdiction trying to poach snipe, they might as well use a spotlight, because that's how I am going to treat anyone who gets caught."

# Suspects Caught and Still Sought in Mini Storage Burglary Investigation

**From TPSO**

The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office (TPSO) has arrested four people and is still trying to locate five others, in connection with dozens of mini storage unit burglaries in the Hammond area.

Kayla Bordelon, 32, was arrested for 60 counts of Burglary, one count each of Possession with Intent to Distribute Schedule II narcotics, and Possession of Stolen Things ($25,000 or more), as well as three counts of Cruelty to Juveniles and two counts of Illegal Use of CDS in the Presence of Persons Under the age of 17.

Rachael Lebouf, 55, was arrested for Principal Burglary, Possession of Stolen Things ($25,000 or more), and Possession with Intent to Distribute Schedule II narcotics.

Aldridge Davis, 33, was arrested for 60 counts of Burglary, six counts of Resisting an Officer, and one count of Possession of Stolen Things ($25,000 or more).

John Folse, 31, was arrested on one count of Possession of Stolen Items and two counts of Principal to Burglaries.

On December 28, 2024, Storage Units of America, located on University Avenue in Hammond, reported that several units were broken into. During the investigation, our partners at Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office provided information about a U-Haul truck recovered during their investigation into a camper theft. The contents of the U-Haul matched the list of stolen items our detectives had compiled.

That led TPSO detectives to an address where the first four suspects were located and taken into custody. Additionally, Hailey Guidry (29) has a warrant for Possession of Stolen Items.

However, detectives have additional persons of interest they need to locate: Breanna Mulkey (26), Matthew Morrow (41), Samara Rousse aka Samara Killingsworth (32), and Bryant Jones (55).

Sheriff Gerald Sticker encourages anyone with information about these burglaries, and/or those responsible, to contact Det. Hardy with the Criminal Investigations Office at 985-402-0214. Also, if you have a storage unit at this business, you are advised to check its status and alert TPSO if you find you were also victimized.

If you'd prefer to share information anonymously, you can do so through Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa's tip line at 1-800-554-5245 or visit www.tangicrimestoppers.com and click on the P3 Tips icon or Submit A Tip!

You may be eligible for a cash reward.

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INSURANCE Insider with Tonya Aiken

# Original Medicare Enrollment Periods Explained

**By TONYA AIKEN**
**Tangi Times Technical Contributor**

Medicare enrollment periods are often a source of confusion for Medicare beneficiaries. Often, a misunderstanding occurs when beneficiaries confuse enrollment into what is called Original Medicare (Part A and Part B) with that of other healthcare options such as Medicare Supplements, Medicare Advantage, and Part D drug plans.

These enrollment periods may coincide, but not necessarily. It's always a good idea to have a refresher of the Medicare basics and your opportunities to enroll, even if you've helped a loved one and believe you're familiar with the process. Penalties can be steep if you miss an opportunity.

If you choose to enroll in Original Medicare there are three enrollment periods that you must be aware of – Initial, Special, and General enrollment periods. Let's discuss these and what you need to consider as you get closer to your Medicare years.

If you are turning 65 and still working, you may delay enrollment into Original Medicare Part A and Part B. I repeat, you do NOT have to enroll in Medicare if you are actively working and you are on an employer health plan that is considered "creditable coverage."

A plan is creditable when it is at least equal to the minimum coverage that Medicare offers. Every year, your employer health plan (EHP) sends out a letter confirming that your coverage is indeed "creditable." If it is, then no worries! You are fine with delaying your enrollment into Original Medicare Part A and/or Part B.

You should also be aware of the number of employees that your company employs. If it is over 20, then you should strongly consider enrolling in Medicare Part A and B as soon as you are eligible. If you do not, your employer's health plan does not have to pay as your primary insurance, and you will sooner or later face a battle of what is called coordination of benefits.

Your group plan may come back and say that they are not paying because you should have enrolled into Medicare Part A and B. Should you choose to stay with your employer's health plan in this instance, Medicare pays as the primary insurer and your group health plan pays as secondary to Medicare. If your employer has more than 20 employees, your group health plan is primary and Medicare is secondary.

When you are turning 65, you may enroll three months before your birth month, the month of, and three months after. This is called your Initial Enrollment Period.

Once enrolled, your effective date will be either the first day of your birth month or the first day of the following month that you enroll, unless your birth date falls on the 1st of the month. If so, your Medicare start date would be the first of the previous month. But it is ALWAYS the first day of the month.

Whew! It's a lot... we know.

So, what happens if you do not have creditable coverage, and you miss your Initial Enrollment Period window?

Unless you have an exception, you must enroll during the General Enrollment Period that runs from January 1 to March 31. At this point, if you went without creditable medical or drug coverage, you may have a late enrollment penalty.

The Part B penalty adds 10% to your standard Part B premium for each 12-month period that you could have had Part B but didn't. The penalty does not go away and lasts as long as you have Part B. There is no additional penalty for late enrollment into Part A for most people.

There are exceptions to the Initial and General Enrollment Periods called Special Enrollment Periods. If you are enrolled in employer coverage, you may enroll into Original Medicare Part A and/or B at any time throughout the year.

If you are incarcerated, once you are released, you will have an opportunity to enroll into Original Medicare. If you were impacted by a natural disaster and missed your opportunity to enroll, you may qualify for an exception, as well.

There are several exceptions, and some are only granted at the discretion of the Centers of Medicare Services (CMS). It certainly would be worth a phone call to see if you qualify.

Penalties are for a lifetime and may impact your choices to enroll in other health related plans. You may also consult a local agent to find out what special circumstances may apply in your situation.

Enrollment into Original Medicare occurs through the Social Security Administration online, by phone or in person. The easiest way to enroll is online through ssa.gov, or in person at a local Social Security Office.

Should you choose to enroll online and have not set up your account with Social Security, I would recommend using the ID.ME (green button) on the ssa.gov login page. Or, you may come into our office and consult with one of our agents who can guide you through the process.

If you are locked out and require a phone appointment, it can take weeks before you are able to receive a call back. So don't delay initiating the process. If you need assistance, we are always happy to help.

Tonya Aiken
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# HRAC Celebrates National Youth Art Month

**From HRAC**

In celebration of National Youth Art Month in March, the Hammond Regional Arts Center will host its annual "Young Artists Exhibition," showcasing works of art by students throughout Tangipahoa Parish. The exhibition will be displayed from March 14 through April 3, with an opening reception on March 14 from 5-8pm in HRAC's Main Gallery. Admission to the exhibition and reception is free to the public.

The Young Artists Exhibition highlights students' creativity and artistic development from elementary to high school levels, featuring a diverse range of media, including paintings, drawings, photography, sculptures and mixed media works. This exhibition provides young artists with a professional platform to present their work to the public and gain recognition for their artistic achievements.

Participating schools this year include the Tangipahoa Talented Art Program, Hammond High Magnet School, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, D.C. Reeves Elementary, Tucker Elementary and Hammond Eastside Upper Magnet.

"The Young Artists Exhibition is one of our most inspiring annual events," said Tara Bennett, HRAC Media Coordinator. "It's a celebration of creativity, passion and the promising future of the arts in our community. These students work incredibly hard, and this showcase gives them an opportunity to share their vision with a wider audience."

National Youth Art Month is an annual observance during March that emphasizes the value of art education and encourages public support for quality school art programs. It has been observed nationally since 1961.

"At HRAC, we believe in fostering the next generation of artists by providing them with opportunities to showcase their talents," Bennett said. "National Youth Art Month is the perfect time to highlight the importance of arts education and its impact on young minds. This exhibition not only celebrates their artistic achievements but also reinforces how creativity plays a vital role in critical thinking, self-expression and cultural understanding."

Concurrent with the "Young Artists Exhibition" will be "Living Still, A Study of Flora and Forms," featuring artwork by art educator Virginia Berthelot. This exhibition will be displayed in HRAC's upstairs Mezzanine Gallery and feature a selection of Berthelot's paintings.

Both exhibitions are free and open to the public during HRAC's regular gallery hours, which are noon to 6pm, Wednesday through Friday. For more information about this and other upcoming HRAC events, please visit hammondarts.org.

# Southeastern Sees Historic Growth in Enrollment

**From Southeastern**

Southeastern Louisiana University's spring semester has shown historic enrollment growth, achieving its strongest overall spring enrollment in its 100-year history. With an overall enrollment increase of 7.3 percent at 14,801 students, Southeastern experienced growth in nearly all categories.

A strategic initiative of the state is to better prepare high school students for college by earning college credit while still in high school, Southeastern President William S. Wainwright explained. Southeastern continues to lead in that area in alignment with the Board of Regents' Master Plan for Louisiana.

As Southeastern embarks on its second century, the value of a Southeastern degree continues to transform communities and economies, Wainwright added.

"Beyond record enrollment lies a dedicated faculty and staff focused on the holistic education of each student," he said. "I could not be prouder of this achievement as Southeastern celebrates 100 years of leading the educational, economic and cultural development of Southeast Louisiana. Centered in the mission, market responsive programs of study continue to spur academic innovation and economic impact charting the course for the next century of impact."

With over a $1 billion economic impact on the region, Southeastern currently offers over 150 programs of study, including many that are regionally and nationally ranked. To apply, visit southeastern.edu.

# Southeastern Receives New Research Designation

**From Southeastern**

Southeastern Louisiana University is now one of the national "Research Colleges and Universities" thanks to a new research designation from the American Council on Education and the 2025 Carnegie Classifications.

Two factors are considered when awarding designations: how much money a school spends on research and the number of degrees it confers. Schools must have at least $2.5 million in research expenditures annually to receive the designation.

"Southeastern has put a strategic focus on increasing both the volume and value of the research it produces," said Southeastern President William S. Wainwright. "We see this as a significant recognition of our focus and success. In addition to our strong reputation as a teaching institution, we will now be recognized for our dedication to research, as we continue to lead the educational, economic and cultural development of Southeast Louisiana into our second century."

Southeastern produces a growing body of research from many academic disciplines and places a strong emphasis on including student work on research projects.

"This is a well-deserved recognition and is a testament to the hard work of our faculty and students throughout the campus who have been actively involved in research activities for many years," said Southeastern Dean of Research and Innovation Daniel McCarthy.

The numbers used to determine Southeastern's designation were research expenditures from fiscal year 2023 ($2.858 million) and the number of research doctoral degrees (16) awarded during 2022-23.

# Obituaries

**Jennifer Lee Mills Billiot**; 62; Ponchatoula; January 31; survived by her sister, Janiece Mills Weinberger (Paul); brothers, Daniel (Karen), Loel (Wynette), Joel (Vickie), and Donald Mills; nephews, Kyle W. Weinberger and David Weiss (Athena); nieces, Jessica Weinberger and Alyce Simpson (Thomas); and many other nieces and nephews.

**Maurice Manning Houk**; Folsom; February 16; survived by his wife Pamela Bell Houk and son Jeffrey Manning Houj. Services at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 W 21st Avenue, Covington, on Thursday, March 6, at 11:00am with visitation beginning at 9:00am until service time.

**Calvin Joseph Strate Sr**.; 92; February 23; Hammond; survived by his daughter, Cecelia Brock; sons, Carl Strate (Pam), Tommy Strate (Lisa), Calvin 'Joey' Strate, Jr. (Marialice), David Strate (Theresa), and Leo Strate (Cherie); 21 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and fifteen great-great-grandchildren; sisters, Imelda and Annie; brother, Donald; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Reggie Lee Pevey**; 97; Ponchatoula; February 23; survived by his seven children, Paul Pevey (Angela), Janet Collier, John Pevey (Terri), Diane Pepitone (Terry), Susan McHugh (Tim), David Pevey, and Dennis Pevey (Jerri); 25 grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Anna Calamia Amerson**; 83; Hammond; February 23; survived by her son law, Roy Amerson (Shari); daughter, Becky Amerson; daughter, Amy Amerson Burchfield (Aaron); sisters, Mary Jane Hamilton and Lucille Picou; grandchildren, Ryan Amerson, Allie Amerson Heckman (Nick), Grant Amerson (de'Ette), and Camille Burchfield.

**Dr. John Harvey Labbe**; 65; Hammond; February 23; survived by his wife, Trisha Labbe; children, Madeline Bulloch (Daniel), Sarah Labbe, and Patrick Labbe; brothers, Charles (Trang), Tom (Vicky), and Steve Labbe (Jan); brothers-in-law, John (Shana) and Michael Bender (Jill); seven nieces; and six nephews.

**Shirley Ann Gordon Hidalgo**; 77; Independence; February 23; leaves behind her sons, James McGee, Paul Brasel, and Dwayne J. Hidalgo Sr.; sisters, Ruth Fortiner and Polly Gordon; brothers, Oscar and Pat Gordon; grandchildren, Dwayne, Shelly, PJ, Josh, Dillion, Curtis, Johnny, Brandon, Corey, Jon, and Cody; twelve great-grandchildren; and many pets.

**Cody Michael Easley**; 33; Springfield; February 24; survived by his wife, Ashley Easley; daughter, Calissa Easley; son, Carston Easley; sister, Precious Jewett; brother, Jonathon Easley; grandparents, Bobby and Brenda Cathy Hall Hano; mother-in-law, Debra Lindsey (Charles Mitchell); and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

**Ida Mae Hutchinson Stafford**; 88; Albany; February 25; survived by her loving husband, Huey Stafford; sons, Larry (Annette) and Blaine Stafford (Tedra); grandchildren, Jerica (Derek), Joshua (Amanda), and Nathan; great-grandchildren, Mya and Huey Baker; sisters, Arlene (Jr. Hano) and Wanda (Floyd); brother, John (Geraline); and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Lillian Maudilene Dove "Lili"**; 84; Independence; February 25; survived by her sister, Nona Oxe, and children, Laura Hodges, Kathy Osborn, and Eddie Dove.

**Fred Straughan; 84**; Loranger; February 25; survived by his wife, Mattie Rainey Straughan; daughter, Darla Straughan and Kenneth Benedict; Son, Norwood Straughan (Kathy); brother, Steve Sidney Straughan Jr. (Connie); sister, Linda Brister; and grandchildren, Linzy Alston (Josh), Reese Straughan, and Mary Straughan.

# New Antibiotics May End Chronic Infections

**From LSU**

An LSU-led research team is developing a new class of antibiotics capable of bypassing the defenses of drug-resistant bacteria, which otherwise make it difficult to cure chronic infections.

Antibiotics work by disrupting cellular processes and structures – stopping bacteria from making proteins, rupturing cell walls, even damaging their DNA. Chronic infections are notoriously hard to cure because the bacteria are shielded by a layer of proteins, sugars and extracellular DNA called biofilms. The antibiotics currently in use cannot pierce these biofilms, but LSU Chemistry Professor Mario Rivera and his research team have invented a way to defeat the bacteria's defenses.

"Our new class of antibiotics kill the bacteria by blocking their access to iron, a vital nutrient," Rivera said. "Without iron, the bacteria can't grow. They stagnate and die, allowing the chronic infections to begin healing."

Biofilm bacteria use a protein called bacterioferritin (BfrB) to store iron. Another protein called ferredoxin (Bfd) helps ferry the stored iron to where the bacterial cell can use it.

The research team's antibiotics disrupt this process, stopping Bfd from binding to BfrB. The iron remains irreversibly locked inside BfrB. Starved of iron, the biofilm bacteria stop growing. Eventually, they die.

The research team's discovery could be extremely valuable. Each year, an estimated 1.6 million U.S. residents develop foot ulcers associated with diabetes. These ulcers frequently lead to chronic biofilm infections that result in amputation. The nation spends more than $10 billion each year to treat foot ulcers associated with diabetes.

"Around 14% of Louisiana residents have diabetes. That's one of the highest rates in the nation, and treatments cost the state more than $4 billion a year," said Robert Twilley, LSU vice president of research and economic development. "Finding solutions to our state's health challenges is one of the goals of our Scholarship First Agenda, and this new class of antibiotics represents a major leap forward."

The new class of antibiotics' unique approach may allow them to address a major health issue: infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria. The World Health Organization says the rapid increase in drug-resistant bacteria is an ever-worsening crisis, and there is an enormous need for new antibiotics to combat the most dangerous bacteria.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that drug-resistant bacterial infections cost the U.S. over $4.6 billion a year in health care and lost productivity.

Rivera's research is supported by the National Institutes of Health. In late 2021, he received a five-year $3.69 million NIH R01 grant to develop a treatment for biofilm bacteria. Rivera worked with the LSU Office of Innovation & Technology Commercialization (ITC) to patent the discovery.

"We're excited about helping our researchers pursue the commercial opportunities for this revolutionary technology," said Daniel Felch, LSU ITC senior commercialization officer.

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# Young Woman of Excellence Search Begins

**By STEFANIE BROOKE**
**Tangi Times Community Journalist**

The Tangipahoa Parish Library is on the lookout for an extraordinary young woman to honor during Women's History Month, and they need the community's help to find her. Nominations are now open for the 2025 Young Woman of Excellence Award, a special recognition given to a middle or high school student who is making waves in her community.

This award celebrates a young leader who has gone above and beyond to make a difference in Tangipahoa Parish. She might be a fearless advocate for change, a dedicated volunteer, or a natural leader among her peers. Whether she's organizing community projects, lending a helping hand to those in need, or inspiring others with her vision and determination, this award is for someone who is truly making an impact.

Teachers, school librarians, principals, and community leaders are encouraged to submit nominations for students in grades 5 through 12 who live in Tangipahoa Parish. The chosen recipient, along with all nominees, will be honored at a special award ceremony at the Amite Branch Library on Saturday, April 5, at 10am.

The deadline to nominate is Friday, March 21, at 5:00pm, so don't wait too long to recognize a remarkable young woman who deserves the spotlight. Nominations from immediate family members or library staff won't be accepted, and self-nominations are also off the table; so be sure to nominate someone who truly inspires you.

To submit a nomination and shine a light on a young woman making a difference, visit the library's website at www.tangilibrary.com.

# Beneficial Ownership Reporting Requirement Back in Effect

## *Small business owners may be required to file report*

**From the National Newspaper Association**

With the February 18, 2025, decision by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in Smith, et al. v. U.S. Department of the Treasury, et al., 6:24-cv-00336 (E.D. Tex.), beneficial ownership information (BOI) reporting requirements under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) are once again back in effect.

However, because the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) has acknowledged that reporting companies may need additional time to comply with their BOI reporting obligations, FinCEN is generally extending the deadline 30 calendar days from February 19, 2025, for most companies.

During this 30-day period FinCEN will assess its options to further modify deadlines, while prioritizing reporting for those entities that pose the most significant national security risks. FinCEN also intends to initiate a process this year to revise the BOI reporting rule to reduce burden for lower-risk entities, including many U.S. small businesses.

In a notice issued on February 18, 2025, it provided the following updated deadlines:

- For the vast majority of reporting companies, the new deadline to file an initial, updated, and/or corrected BOI report is now March 21, 2025. FinCEN will provide an update before then of any further modification of this deadline, recognizing that reporting companies may need additional time to comply with their BOI reporting obligations once this update is provided.
- Reporting companies that were previously given a reporting deadline later than the March 21, 2025 deadline must file their initial BOI report by that later deadline. For example, if a company's reporting deadline is in April 2025 because it qualifies for certain disaster relief extensions, it should follow the April deadline, not the March deadline.
- As indicated in the alert titled "Notice Regarding National Small Business United v. Yellen, No. 5:22-cv-01448 (N.D. Ala.)", Plaintiffs in National Small Business United v. Yellen, No. 5:22-cv 01448 (N.D. Ala.), namely, Isaac Winkles, reporting companies for which Isaac Winkles is the beneficial owner or applicant, the National Small Business Association, and members of the National Small Business Association (as of March 1, 2024), are not currently required to report their beneficial ownership information to FinCEN at this time.

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# Catherine "Kitty" Guagliardo Memorial Scholarship Open to Applicants

## *PHS seniors set for education career encouraged to apply immediately*

The Kitty Guagliardo Memorial Scholarship was created in 2012 to honor the life and career of Catherine "Kitty" Cooper Guagliardo. Upon graduating from Ponchatoula High School in 1933, she attended Southeastern College, long before it was known as SLU. She then spent nearly 40 years educating students at Champ Cooper School in Robert, LA.

As a long-time member of the Lioness Club, a civic organization charitable to the Eyesight Foundation, Kitty worked many, many fundraisers to help people with eyesight difficulties. She struggled with her own eyesight and used her retirement years raising funds at assorted festivals, bingo games, and ball games to aid others enduring similar issues.

As a teacher, because she knew GUAGLIARDO was difficult to spell, she made it a permanent fixture on her spelling test every week, every year. Still today, there are local adults that she taught many years ago that will recognize her son or one of her grandchildren, approach them, and blurt out G-U-A-G-L-I-A-R-D-O! They will never forget that spelling.

Our family, along with her friends, former students, fellow educators, and church community have contributed to fund a $4,000.00 Teaching Scholarship, paid evenly each semester, for eight (8) consecutive spring & fall semesters. This scholarship shall be awarded annually to one or more Ponchatoula High School graduating seniors and will be administered beginning with the fall semester following PHS graduation. Selections will be made without regard to race, gender, gender identity, faith, creed, nationality, or political/social distinction. Total payout = $4,000.00 regardless of the number of recipients.

The recipient will be chosen by a selection committee appointed by the scholarship fund. The selected recipient must meet the following criteria* to be considered for the award: 1) Cumulative High School GPA of 3.0 or greater; 2) Upcoming Fall semester enrollment at Southeastern Louisiana University as an Education major; 3) Minimum ACT score of 22 or Minimum SAT score of 1200; 4) Participation in school activities; 5) Financial need

*Special consideration will be given to Champ Cooper School alumni

Applications for this scholarship will be issued from the Guidance Counselor's office at Ponchatoula High School. Applications are to be emailed to amgiii1004@gmail.com and tony.guagliardo@yahoo.com and jaimegrn@msn.com for consideration. Our committee will review the applications and decide on a group of finalists. If needed, we may ask the finalists to participate in an interview process with some or all committee members.

A member of the Guagliardo family tree, a scholarship committee member, or a selected representative will present this scholarship to the recipient(s) at the Ponchatoula High School Senior Awards Day.

The scholarship monies shall be used for expenses related to attendance at Southeastern Louisiana University with bank checks to be mailed to the recipient(s) near the beginning of each semester, provided the student will be enrolling for the pending semester and is on track for a degree in Education. The committee expects the award to be used with the following priorities: Tuition, Course materials, Room & Board or other educational expenses. The scholarship recipient must provide a copy of GPA earned (transcript) after each semester to receive the award for next semester. The SLU GPA shall be 2.5 or above for each semester, otherwise the scholarship is forfeited.

The award of this scholarship will be reviewed annually, and the committee may withdraw or change the scholarship offering prior to application distribution each year; or completely withdraw the scholarship offer if circumstances warrant any time prior to awarding the scholarship.

*To request an application for the Kitty Guagliardo Memorial Scholarship, email publisher@tangitimes.com.

# KING CAKE

(FROM PAGE 1)

gathering. This adds an element of surprise and camaraderie to the celebration.

***Evolution and Popularity***

While the King Cake remains rooted in tradition, it has also seen numerous variations over the years. Classic fillings like cinnamon and cream cheese are still popular, but bakeries have introduced innovative flavors, including praline, fruit, and even chocolate. The cake is now enjoyed not only in Louisiana but across the United States, with many bakeries shipping King Cakes nationwide during the Carnival season.

***A Lasting Mardi Gras Tradition***

The King Cake remains an essential part of Mardi Gras, bringing people together in celebration and anticipation. Whether enjoyed at a family gathering, an office party, or a grand parade, this sweet treat continues to symbolize the joy and unity of the season. As the dough is braided and the sugar is sprinkled, the legacy of the King Cake carries on, preserving a centuries-old tradition that connects past and present in a deliciously festive way.

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Local bee guru, Dr. George Anthon, will lead a casual and
informative discussion on the basics of beekeeping.
See you there!

# Campus Corner

**By PABLO CREWES**
**Tangi Times Sportswriter**

The awards section of the Campus Corner has gotten a little crowded, although, in Pablo's opinion, there should have been at least one more. On Wednesday afternoon, three Southeastern track and field athletes were tabbed by the Southland Conference as Athletes of the Week.

Lady Lion sophomore Marvellous Asemota was tabbed by the SLC as the track award winner after winning the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.55 in the LSU Twilight meet. Joining her is her Lion counterpart distance runner, Euan Lagan, who finished the 3,000 meter in 8:28.16 – good enough for third at the same event held in Baton Rouge over the weekend.

Southeastern swept the men's awards as Donroy Brown was named the Field Athlete of the Week after a 17.54-meter effort in the shot put, winning gold at the Twilight. For good measure, he added 14.47 meters in the weight toss.

The day before, Lady Lion tennis freshman Aitana Darder was named the SLC's Player of the Week after a 6-1, 6-1 singles win, and 6-1 win in doubles (with Leana Gomez) in doubles play, helping Southeastern improve to 6-1 after a 4-1 win over Southern Miss.

Although we usually report only the facts, we would be remiss if we didn't point out a potential snub by Southland Conference voters in baseball. Hammond native and St. Thomas alum went 8-10 from the plate, including a triple and a homer to go along with 8 RBI over the weekend in a three-game sweep over Alcorn State.

After a Wednesday night game, a UL-Lafayette, the Lion baseball team returns home to open SLC play against Northwestern State on Friday evening; the first pitch is set for 6.

Earlier that day, softball played its first game in the Mardi Gras Mambo in Youngsville.

Day one sees the Lady Lions play the Bears (oh my) of Maine at 2pm. Then, at 4, Iowa State is the foe for Southeastern, who cracked the Mid-Major Top 25 poll, debuting at #22.

Beach volleyball heads to Baton Rouge for the first day of the Tiger Beach Classic, taking on Tennessee Martin at 3:30.

There is a lot going on Saturday, but unfortunately, most of it is on the road. Tennis will make its Southland debut against conference newcomer Texas-Rio Grande Valley at 1.

After a Thursday night game also at UTRGV, the Lady Lion basketball team, which is ranked #19 in the mid-major poll, wrapped up the regular season at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. SLU, already having clinched the Southland Conference Championship and the top seed in the SLC Tournament, left Hammond with the chance to finish the Southland season 20-0.

That game tips at 2, the first game of a doubleheader with the men, who enter the season's final two games with a chance to claim the number two seed in the conference tourney next week.

Baseball's game two against the NSU also has a 2:00 start. Fifteen minutes later, beach volleyball squares off with LSU.

Softball's got a pair, starting at 3 against West Georgia and Army at 5.

Sunday, the Lady Lions wrap up the Mardi Gras Mambo against Monmouth at 10am while baseball wraps up the three-game set with the Demons at 1.

Monday, Lady Lion tennis is on the Island to square off with UTA&M-CC at 11am and the Lion basketball team's regular season finale at UT-RGV at 6:30.

For more information on all these sports, including how to watch, listen, and view live stats, visit the online den, lionsports.net.

# Tulane Pounds Nicholls State

**By JOEL RAY**
**Tangi Times Sportswriter**

The powerful Tulane Green Wave baseball team beat the Nicholls State Colonels 13-3 on Tuesday night at Ben Didier Field in Thibodaux.

With the victory, the Green Wave improved their record to 7-1.

Connor Rasmussen led Tulane's attack with two hits and four RBI. Jason Wachs had three hits plus an RBI on a double. Hugh Pinkney had a two run RBI double.

Tanner Chun had a hit and scored a run. Matthias Haas also scored a run and had an RBI. Gavin Schulz had a hit and an RBI. James Agabedis III had a pinch-hit RBI single and scored a run. Nate Johnson walked four times and scored twice.

Blaise Wilcenski (3-0) earned his third relief victory of the season with 1.2 scoreless innings pitched out of the bullpen. Tulane used eight different relief pitchers and struck out 14 Colonels batters.

The Colonels took an early lead in the second inning on a home run by Matt Melancon.

The Green Wave got the lead back in the top of the third inning on a Rasmussen single, a balk with the bases loaded, and a sacrifice fly from Haas.

Tulane added two more runs in the fourth inning on a two-run double by Hugh Pinkney to lead 5-1.

Wachs added a run to the Tulane lead in the fifth inning with a single up the middle.

Nicholls cut the deficit to three with a run in the fifth and seventh inning.

In the eighth inning, Wachs started a Tulane rally with a triple to left field. He was pinch run for by Theo Bryant IV, who ran home and scored on a wild pitch. Rasmussen had the big hit of the inning with his two-out single to right field to drive in a pair of runs and put the Green Wave up 9-3.

Tulane scored four more runs in the ninth inning with Schulz, Agabedis, and Rasmussen each picking up an RBI to make the final score 13-3.

NEXT UP for the Green Wave is a trip across the country to California to play the Pepperdine Waves Feb. 28-March 2 and the Long Beach State 49ers on March 3.

Tulane baseball games are broadcast live on WRBH 88.3 FM over the air and on WRBH's site on the internet.

*Tangi Times Sportswriter Joel Ray is a member of the Louisiana Sports Writers Association.*

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**Cheese Sticks** / $5.50

*Tax NOT included
*Prices Subject to Change at Any Time

**Congratulations to Heather Matheny for being the first to identify last week's menu from Commodore's Pizza in Amite!**

**Restaurants: to be featured in Name that Menu, email publisher@tangitimes.com.**

Watch this list GROW!

# What do these local businesses have in common?

### Hammond
Jeanie's - It's All Good
Doughlicious Donuts
University Donuts
CVS Hammond
Pull Clip Café
Scott's Pharmacy
Don Chaucer's Pharmacy
Bayou Booksellers
Hammond Express
Miller's Mart

### Kentwood
Kentwood Pharmacy
Kentwood City Hall
The Café
Schilling's Pharmacy
Kentwood Co-op
Pizza Shack
B & D Salvage Grocery

### Independence
The Man Shack
Hilltop Market & Deli
Minute Man Convenience
La Potosina

### Bedico
Bedico Supermarket

### Robert
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Robert Pharmacy

### Greensburg
Buddy's Seafood/Deli
Greensburg Family Pharmacy
Main Street Market/Deli

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Gabriel Building Supply
CVS Ponchatoula
B2 Antiques
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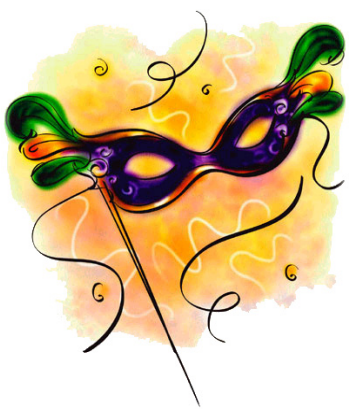

The Tangi Times Music Notes

ROUX & BREW Downtown Ponchatoula

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**FEATURE SHOWS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Thursday, February 27** | 3rd Street Band (5:30-9 pm) | TJ Barends (6-9 pm) | |
| **Friday, February 28** | The Beach Bums (6-9:30 pm) | TJ Barends (6-9 pm) | DJ Donk |
| **Saturday, March 1** | Lance Villafarra (10-1:30) Pat Catania (2-5:30) Carter Hampton (6-9:30) | Lake Ragan (12-3 pm) | |
| **Sunday, March 2** | | Ben & Julia (12-3 pm) | |

***Schedules are Subject to Change***

**GRACIE MARIE**

**Live Acoustic Music**
**3/2 – Salty Joe's (12-3 pm)**
**3/3 – La Caretta Ponchatoula (6-8 pm)**